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2020 CENSUS PROGRAM MEMORANDUM SERIES: 2022.02

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

From: Albert E. Fontenot, Jr. **(Signed January 10, 2022)**
Associate Director, Decennial Census Programs

Subject: Updates to the Geographic Programs Operation, Geographic Delineations
Detailed Operational Plan

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This memorandum documents specific updates that have been made to the plan for the Geographic Programs Operation (GEOP)—Geographic Delineations (GD) component since the release of the Geographic Programs operation—Geographic Delineations [Detailed Operation Plan](#) (DOP) on December 31, 2018. The Geographic Delineations component of the Geographic Programs operation is responsible for the scope, schedule, and budget for the geographic delineations to support the 2020 Census. This includes the creation of collection and tabulation geographies and associated products. This component is responsible for the creation of the Special Land-Use areas, Basic Collection Units (BCUs), Type of Enumeration Areas (TEAs), and Field Management Areas that constitute collection geography. The tabulation geography consists of Tabulation Blocks, Urban Areas (UAs), and Zone Improvement Plan Code Tabulation Areas. The delineations of these areas are created to support 2020 Census data collection, dissemination, and products, such as the Master Address File Extract, map products, and Geographic Reference Files.

The changes to the baselined DOP and clarifications documented in this memorandum are based on continued planning and development to support the Geographic Programs operation for the 2020 Census. No changes to this operational component are related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following table indicates the modifications that have occurred since the DOP was baselined:

Section No.	Section Name	Page	Change Rationale	Original Wording	Update
2.2	Background	2	The Census Bureau will no longer provide separate designations for Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters. There will be just one designation identifying Urban Areas.	While there are additional types of tabulation geography mentioned in the 2020 Census Operational Plan, this document focuses on the following three— Tabulation Blocks, Urban or Urbanized Areas (UAs), and Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs).	While there are additional types of tabulation geography mentioned in the 2020 Census Operational Plan, this document focuses on the following three— Tabulation Blocks, Urban Areas (UAs), and Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs).
2.2	Background, Key Innovations	4	The 2020 Urban Area criteria were modified to include housing units in addition to population criteria.	To qualify as an urban area, the territory identified according to criteria must encompass at least 2,500 people, at least 1,500 of which reside outside institutional group quarters. In the 2010 Census the Census Bureau identified two types of urban areas: •Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people. •Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people.	To qualify as an urban area, the territory identified must encompass a minimum number of housing units or population. This criterion for the 2020 Census is published in the Federal Register Notice. The Census Bureau will no longer provide separate designations for Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters. There will be just one designation identifying Urban Areas.

Section No.	Section Name	Page	Change Rationale	Original Wording	Update
2.3.1	High-Level Operational Design, Basic Collection Unit (BCU) Delineation	5	Since BCUs will not be used in operations outside the decennial, the 2020 BCUs will not be maintained. It is anticipated that new BCUs will be created using the most recent features and boundaries in support of the 2030 Census.	While the primary purpose of the BCU is to support 2020 Census operations, the BCU can also support other census programs like current survey fieldwork. BCUs are designed to survive beyond the 2020 Census and endure for future decennial censuses. Their delineation is driven by criteria defined by various Census Bureau stakeholders and by batch software designed to implement the criteria in an effective and efficient manner. They are interactively reviewed using standard procedures and maintained for use during the 2020 Census using business rules and legal value checks.	The primary purpose of the BCU is to support 2020 Census operations. Their delineation is driven by criteria defined by various Census Bureau stakeholders and by batch software designed to implement the criteria in an effective and efficient manner. They are interactively reviewed using standard procedures and maintained for use during the 2020 Census using business rules and legal value checks. (This includes maintaining nesting relationships and ensuring current boundaries are consistent)

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2.3.1	High-Level Operational Design, Type of Enumeration Area (TEA) Delineation	5	After review of administrative records provided by the military, it was determined that Self-Response and Update Leave should be used for the enumeration of housing units in military areas. In 2019, areas originally assigned to TEA 5 (Military) were reassigned to TEA 1 (Self-Response) or TEA 6 (Update Leave).	The 2020 Census TEAs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEA 1 – Self-Response • TEA 2 – Update Enumerate • TEA 3 – Island Areas • TEA 4 – Remote Alaska • TEA 5 – Military • TEA 6 – Update Leave 	The 2020 Census TEAs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEA 1 – Self-Response • TEA 2 – Update Enumerate • TEA 3 – Island Areas • TEA 4 – Remote Alaska • TEA 6 – Update Leave <p>Note that TEA 5 has been removed (as noted in Memo Series document 2019.14).</p>
2.3.1	High-Level Operational Design, Additional Tabulation Geography Delineations	6	The Census Bureau will no longer provide separate designations for Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters. There will be just one designation identifying Urban Areas.	Additional Tabulation Geography Delineations: The “additional tabulation geographies” included in this category are Urban or Urbanized Areas (UAs) and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs).	Additional Tabulation Geography Delineations: The “additional tabulation geographies” included in this category are Urban Areas (UAs) and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs).

Section No.	Section Name	Page	Change Rationale	Original Wording	Update
2.5	GEOP/GD Design Assumptions, Collection Geography, Basic Collection Units (BCU)	23	Since BCUs will not be used in operations outside the decennial, the 2020 BCUs will not be maintained. It is anticipated that new BCUs will be created using the most recent features and boundaries in support of the 2030 Census.	The BCU will persist beyond the 2020 Census. The BCU has the granularity to support 2020 TEA and field management area delineations.	<i>Remove sentence:</i> The BCU will persist beyond the 2020 Census.
3.1.2.5	Prepare to Perform BCU Interactive Review [GEOP/GD 6-1.1.2.5]	37	Multiple Interactive Reviews were required to split BCUs that had a large number of housing units, as software limitations did not allow for multiple listers to be assigned a BCU.	The current plan is to conduct BCU Interactive Review and Interactive Review QA/QC trainings in January 2018 with HQ staff.	The current plan is to conduct BCU Interactive Review and Interactive Review QA/QC trainings in January 2018 with HQ staff. Additional Interactive Reviews were performed to split BCUs with a large number of housing units, to minimize the burden to field staff.

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3.1.2.5	Prepare to Perform BCU Interactive Review [GEOP/GD 6-1.1.2.5]	38	Staff at NPC assisted with additional BCU interactive review	Staff at HQ performs BCU Interactive Review and BCU Interactive Review QA/QC.	Staff at HQ and NPC perform BCU Interactive Review and BCU Interactive Review QA/QC.
3.1.3.1	Develop TEA Criteria [GEOP/GD 6-1.1.3.1]	43	After review of administrative records provided by the military, it was determined that Self-Response and Update Leave should be used for the enumeration of housing units in military areas.	Military is designed to occur in areas on military installations.	Military enumeration was intended to identify areas on military installations but that distinction was determined to be unnecessary.
3.2	Tabulation Geography Delineation, Table 7	59	The Census Bureau will no longer provide separate designations for Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters. There will be just one designation identifying Urban Areas.	Urban or Urbanized Areas (UA)	Urban Areas (UA)

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3.2.2.2	Perform Batch Delineations for Additional Tabulation Geography [GEOP/GD 6-1.2.2.2]	69	The 2020 Urban Area criteria was modified to include housing units in addition to population criteria.	<p>UA Batch Delineation determines urban areas based on population thresholds. The areas delineated will be similar to the 2010 Census which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people. • Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and fewer than 50,000 people. • "Rural" encompasses all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area. Both UAs and UCs are defined primarily on the basis of population density with additional measures to account for non-residential urban land uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UA Batch Delineation determines urban areas based on housing unit or population criteria. • Urban Areas (UAs) • "Rural" encompasses all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area. <p>Urban Clusters, created during the 2010 Census, will not be created for the 2020 Census.</p>

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Appendix A	Acronyms and Terminology, Table 8	80	The Census Bureau will no longer provide separate designations for Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters. There will be just one designation identifying Urban Areas.	Urbanized Area or Urban Area	Urban Area

The 2020 Census Memorandum Series

The 2020 Census Memorandum Series documents significant decisions, actions, and accomplishments of the 2020 Census Program for the purpose of informing stakeholders, coordinating interdivisional efforts, and documenting important historical changes.

A memorandum generally will be added to this series for any decision or documentation that meets the following criteria:

1. A major program-level decision that will affect the overall design or have significant effect on 2020 Census operations or systems.
2. A major policy decision or change that will affect the overall design or significantly impact 2020 Census operations or systems.
3. A report that documents the research and testing for 2020 Census operations or systems.

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